

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner

Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Britta Baechler, BSAI Assistant Area Management Biologist

Phone: (907) 581-1239

Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Area Office

P.O. Box 920587

Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

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EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT TANNER CRAB FISHERY OPENS JANUARY 15, 2013, POT LIMIT ANNOUNCED

The Eastern Aleutian District (EAD) commercial Tanner crab fishery will open at noon on January 15, 2013 in the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay Section with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 35,000 pounds. The remainder of the EAD, including the Akutan and Makushin/Skan Bay sections, will remain closed for the 2013 season.

Seven preseason vessel registrations were received by the 5:00 p.m. December 24, 2012 deadline. Based on the number of vessels preseason registered, the individual vessel pot limit for the 2013 EAD Tanner crab fishery is 42 pots per vessel. Buoy tags are required for the fishery and will be sold at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Dutch Harbor beginning December 27, 2012. Buoy tags are \$2.00 each.

Tank inspection, courtesy gear inspection, and vessel registration will begin at noon on January 14, 2013 in Dutch Harbor. A 2013 T090 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit card is required at the time of registration. In addition, pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage for use in the fishery must be legally configured for Tanner crab fishing at the time of registration.

Pots may only be operated to take Tanner crab from 8:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. No pot may be set or pulled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:59 a.m.; however, pots set prior to 6:00 p.m. may soak overnight until the next daily fishing period.

The EAD Tanner crab fishery will close when the GHL is reached or at noon on March 31, 2013, whichever occurs first. Closure of the fishery prior to achieving the GHL may occur if preseason expectations of fishery performance are not met. Daily catch reporting from all participants is mandatory; reports to ADF&G must be received by 7:00 p.m. Fishermen must report number of pot lifts and the number of crab retained for each day the vessel is registered, and must report if no effort occurred. Participants will be notified if inseason reporting requirements change.

For additional information, please contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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